The Farm-Square Life.

May 23, 1908

Mk.12:Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. (Dt.6:4ff)

Another great text for hot weather, and another quotation within a quotation.

1. What would be the use of there were no God to love and obey?
   Why any moral and social standards? Why not imitate the animals? Why any education?
   Those who disregard our standards by killing and stealing and debauching live without God.

2. We are commanded to "love and obey" God.
   a. We dont like to be commanded. Women object to the word "obey" in the marriage vow. Judging from the way people act in this country one must conclude that conformity to law and order is/ interferes with personal liberty.

3. We can learn to love God thru obedience.
   a. We cannot understand how we can be compelled to love.
   b. But we do understand that we can be made to obey. When a boy I had to obey orders. Sense of obedienc early inculcated. A sersious lack today.

   c. But thru obedience we learn to love God.
   "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments."
   The commandments of God not only make for eternal salvation, but they make for health and strength and peace and achievement and fellowship and co-operation.
   The commandments of God are for our personal welfare, they work for our good. When we realize this we then learn to think of God as Goodness and Love.

I. God demands a four-square obedience.
   heart, soul, mind and strength, suggest the physical, mental, moral and spiritual side of life.
   a. The physically well-built man, how attractive and and graceful. But watch his manners, how he eats and talks- he is repulsive. Dempsy and Firpo, physical giants, but brutes.
   b. A college chap who is intellectually keen, but he has a cough that makes you conclude that he has not

to life.

c. The athlete andstudent who graduated with high honors. But few if any liked him. An unmoral being. No sense of obligation or duty. Utterly disregarded all social requirements.

d. Over against these examples let us put the young man who is physically strong, mentally awake and morally pure. We say, "There is a man". We can trust him and love him and expect much of him. But wait.

God's law has made life four-square. Manhood is not three-sided but four-sided. There is a spiritual side of life.

II. Failure to develop one side may lose all.

q. How many people just miss life's real meaning by failing to adjust themselves to diving things as well as to the conditions of human life? They are careful, thotful, even brilliant, but they do not see the Divine Being back of all life and true success. They see the physical but not the reality back of the physical.

The American lady who, with her friend, stood by a grave in France. After a long silence, her friend spoke, "Do you want the remains taken back home? Is there anything we can do to comfort you?"

The woman's reply, "No, there is something more vital, more real, more controlling in my love for my son, and what he was, and did, and is, than any material relationship in all the world. Why, my dear boy is not buried; he lives in my very soul all the the time. He is mine and nothing material can bind him or take him from me."

The unseen things of life, the eternal things of life are the vital things afterall.

2. Take God's command to "Remeber the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." Not a cold command of arbitrary compulsion.

The real Sabbath question is not whether a man should play golf or base-ball or tennis or not, but whether he is living his life merely for personal pleasure or developing the spiritual side of his life.

The Sabbath is God's provision for the development of the spiruthal side of our lives so that we may be built four-square. Everyday is a Sabbath opportunity to live spiritually as well as physically, mentally & morally.

3. The four-square life is the best protection against

personal enemies.

~~A great battle in history won by a great general who put up a fighting front on all four sides.~~

realities

Conclusion. The unseen relities of life need not remain unknown to us.

The famous reunion held at Yale. The "Fifty Year" class much in evidence. They gathered at table, ataurprising, y large number of the original class. There entered an elderly man a little late but no-one recognized him. They were ashamed to admit it, but such was the case. Then the man said, "Wait a minn minute". He left the room and soon returned with a young man. "Now, Jack, laugh." They they all exclaimed, "Its Jerry. Its Jerry right over again." In the son they recognized their former fellow-student. And so in Christ we become acquainted with the Unseen God and learn to know Him as our Heavenly Father.

The Christ, dead & all, teaches us how to live the four-fold life

1. Evaluates Life at its highest & best.
2. It integrates us - makes us a consistent, harmonized personality.
3. It properly relates us to others and to all Life.
4. It gives us an strongest motivation & encentive to live and use best in every possible worthy way.
5. It purifies & ennobles all of our relationships.